

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /179 W

----- 115656

R 102350Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 1801

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CS

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH TORRIJOS

1. GOVERNMENT-ORIENTED LA HORA REPORTED MAY 10 AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS WHO IS IN COSTA RICA FOR THIS WEEK'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL EVENTS. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES THE LA HORA REPORT OF THIS INTERVIEW:

2. PANAMA CANAL: TORRIJOS SAID "WE BELIEVE THAT WITHIN A YEAR OUR PROBLEMS OVER THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PANAMA CANAL WILL BE RESOLVED (WITH) A SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE RESTITUTION OF PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE CANAL ZONE". HE ADDED THAT IF LIMITS FOR PANAMANIAN PATIENCE ARE PASSED THEN THE PANAMANIAN YOUTH WILL TURN VIOLENT TO SECURE THEIR ENDS.

HE WENT ON: "THE UNITED STATES FEELS A CERTAIN SHAME AT MAINTAINING THIS COLONIAL SITUATION, WHICH IS CONTRADICTIONARY TO THE CONSCIENCE OF THE AMERICANS."

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3. BANANA TAX: "NONE OF THE COUNTRIES THAT MADE THE AGREEMENT HAVE BROKEN IT... PANAMA WILL KEEP THE AGREEMENT AND I CAN SAY THAT IF WE LOSE THE BANANA WAR WE WILL THROW ALL OUR PRODUCT INTO THE CANAL."

4. OTHER: TORRIJOS CLAIMED PANAMA IS EXPERIENCING "ABSOLUTE SOCIAL PEACE" WITH NO SOCIAL GROUP SIGNIFICANTLY DISTURBED THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF DIALOGUE WITH ALL GROUPS. HE PRAISED BOTH TUBER AND FIGUERES AND CHARACTERIZED AS "MAGNIFICENT" THE PROSPECT FOR COSTA RICAN/PANAMANIAN RELATIONS WITH ODUBER RUNNING THE GOCR. HE SAID COSTA RICA HAD BEEN ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD "MOST WARMLY" SUPPORTED THE GOP CANAL POLICY.

5. COMMENT: AFTER ODUBER HIMSELF, TORRIJOS WAS THE STAR ATTRACTION IN SAN JOSE THIS WEEK. HE COMINGS AND GOINGS WITH A LARGE RETINUE AT RECEPTIONS, HIS MEETINGS WITH ODUBER, THE HONORING OF FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO WITH A PANAMANIAN DECORATION IN ODUBER'S PRESENCE AND A SCHEDULED SEMINAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COSTA RICAN ON MAY 10 WERE ALL PROMINENTLY NOTED BY THE PRESS.
LANE

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